

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Larry L. Hood

Examiner: B. Yarnell

Application No.: 08/957,911

Art Group: 3739

Filed: October 27, 1997

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
MODIFICATIONS OF VISUAL
ACUITY BY THERMAL MEANS

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.115

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231-9998

Sir:

Applicant would like to file the following preliminary amendment for the above-entitled patent application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-10. Please add claims 11-19 as follows:

11. (New) A system for denaturing a cornea, comprising:
a probe which has a tip that can be placed in contact with the cornea; and,
a power supply which provides a current to said probe at a frequency between 5 kHz to 50 MHz.

12. (New) The system as recited in claim 11, further comprising a ground pad that provides a return path for the power provided to said probe.

13. (New) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein said probe includes a tip which has a length between 300 and 600 microns.

14. (New) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein said probe includes a handle, a first connector attached to said handle, and a second connector that mates with said first connector.

15. (New) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein said probe includes a stop that limits an insertion depth of said tip into the cornea.

16. (New) The system as recited in claim 14, wherein said tip is located at a distal end of a spring beam.

17. (New) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the current has a damped waveform.

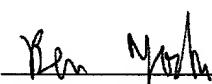
18. (New) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein said power supply provides no more than 1.2 watts of power for a time duration no greater than 1 second.

19. (New) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein said power supply provides power at a repetitive rate between 4 kHz to 12 kHz.

Applicant hereby requests examination of newly added claims 11-19.

Respectfully submitted,
IRELL & MANELLA LLP

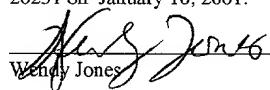
Dated: January 10, 2001


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 10, 2001.

 1/10/01
Wendy Jones Date